7th February, 2008

Dear Counsellor Tehrani,

I am very happy and grateful to have this opportunity to serve the Faith in such a unique capacity. It is a truly exciting endeavour which will bring much needed learning to this area. It is my privilege to work on such a special project and with such special people.

Thus far, the project is at an early stage; however there are still some key learnings which are summarized below. My wife, Farnaz accompanied me throughout these early stages of the project suggesting possible approaches, helping with presentations, pushing for deadlines and organizing my transport. This report thus is from both of us.

Overall Objective: Starting IPGs with target population in the London Cluster under specific guidelines and thereby create focused learning for growth in this population.

Initial Objectives:
-Identify one family unit in London
-Identify a contact person
-launch a Cycle.
Our aim was to identify people who already had the skills and capacity to launch an IPG.

Observations of Current State of Activities with Target Population:

Since the visit of House Member Dr. Javaheri there has been increased awareness of the need to refocus activities here in the UK. In particular there has been, as far as we can gauge, a regular 3 monthly 'reflection' meeting for speakers across the UK. This is primarily the result of individual initiative and has provided encouragement and a forum of discussion for the friends.

Our arrival in the UK coincided with a cluster reflection meeting in Thames Valley (our place of residence) on 13th January, 2008. We noted here that approaches to the target population were being openly discussed with suggestions of collective teaching campaigns. Thus despite, the sincere efforts of the friends there was a lack of awareness of suitable approaches.

We were further fortunate to have our arrival also coincide closely with a pre-arranged 3 monthly reflection meeting for speakers, which was held on 26th January, 2008. Although this meeting was not in line with the purposes of our plan, as it catered for all speakers

across the UK, we felt it was a good opportunity to gauge the current situation and identify potential resources – in particular a London contact person. Counsellor Vivian Craig and Sawsan Al-Hadi were present and I was introduced as a Resource Person.

As it was clear prior to this meeting that the friends required guidance regarding working with this population, we decided that we would present the recommended approach so that each person present could continue with their own systemic personal plans without 'attracting undue attention'. We read relevant messages of the House and stressed the urgency of this work and the requirements to be focused. We did not form family units, as we felt this was premature and impractical given the geographical location of the friends and would also distract us from our focus in London.

Many of the friends had questions, and we offered to provide any training or resources they required.

This meeting further confirmed our objectives that we need to work with people who are already involved within the process in order to maximize the learning and ensure it is systematic. Moreover, we need to focus on one cluster, as many of the friends scattered elsewhere in the UK do not live in shires with the target population.

The current level of learning in the UK within this population is limited. For the most part most friends have no contacts and thus the focus at the moment is to increase their circle of friends. There are some hesitations in working with this group and preconceptions regarding receptivity, however, overall there is a clear enthusiasm and an eagerness to work with the population. Unfortunately there were only a few participants from London, however we identified two who are actively involved in the process. One is Hatem Al Hadi who has just moved to London. He is currently on pilgrimage and our plan is to meet him upon his return to start systematically with him and inform him of the plan.

At this meeting we also noted an active group of tutors residing in the Thames Valley cluster (our cluster), such as Iqan Hayati, the coordinator of the reflection meeting. They include three families who have made efforts to work systematically with the target group. We felt that there is potential to start another family unit in this cluster in addition to London. However, as our priority is London, we wished to focus on getting that unit off the ground first.

London

Action Taken

We participated in the London Cluster Reflection Meeting held on 27th January, 2008 in order to identify potential members of the family unit and a contact person. We noted that there are active

speakers who are already heavily involved with the process and among the members of the ATC.

We identified 5 possible people to work with, however our concern was their already very heavy involvement in cluster activities and programs of growth which were all outside the target population. Thus, despite their excellent skills and awareness of the plan, we were not sure if they could commit to this population and this project.

We felt that it was necessary to launch the cycle concurrently with the London cluster. This would be particularly pertinent if these 5 individuals would form the unit, as it would be unrealistic to ask them to re-alter their plans mid-way through a cycle of growth and processes already established with seekers.

A spiritually charged meeting was held on the 3rd February, 2008 at the National Baha'i Centre in the chambers of the NSA. Four of the five individuals were present. They included Rayyan Rowhani (ATC treasurer/tutor), Nasrin Yuksel (Contact Person), Homa Saadat (ATC secretary/ tutor) and Soheib Mohammadi (tutor). Nadim Rowhani (ATC Chairman/ tutor) is a non-speaker but is married to Nasrin and from our experience would be an asset to her activities. Nadim was the one who did not come to this meeting.

The meeting started with prayers, followed by the vision of the plan, information regarding the family unit and the focus on London coupled with relevant readings from the messages of the House - all in Arabic. The sacredness of the room which has the presence of a chair Abdu'l-Baha's sat on during His UK visit, and where the House of Justice first held their meetings, accompanied by the readings in the original tongue including Surat-i-Araab, touched everyone's hearts.

This group are all descendents of pioneers to the region and grew up in harsh environments. As these friends are already in tune with the plan and core activities, they immediately understood the implications of the vision and there was some concern voiced about how to practically accommodate this project in addition to a myriad others they are already involved in. We were all touched when one person responded, saying that he now felt his heart 'fulfilled', that he was always wondering why Baha'u'llah had chosen for him to grow up in the country he did, and that since coming to London he had been occupied with serving in so many capacities, but it is now clear what the purpose of his being in this city is.

These souls are so acutely aware of the plan and its needs that consultation was smooth and focused. However, none currently have any contacts from the target group, and thus clearly the first place to start is to increase the circle of friends. One individual mentioned that all his life he had been trying to avoid teaching the target group and it will take some time to adapt to the new plan. We suggested some ways to meet more people including particular organizations in London.

We placed emphasis on the junior youth program. Nasrin works in a school with a large proportion of the target group and starting a group there was set as a goal which will also serve to increase contacts with families. She was also selected as contact person for the group. Everyone agreed to start working on this project immediately.

The need for training in Arabic was discussed as most participants have been trained in English and need to feel comfortable with the material in Arabic.

So far, one individual has called with news that he has started to share Anna's presentation with an individual, and he is the one who told us before I was always trying to avoid the target group ☺

Collaboration with Institutions:

We have thus far met with Counsellor Viv Craig for an afternoon, where the plan was discussed in detail and the ITC letter of September 30th studied.

A brief meeting was held with London ABM Varqa Khadem (Counsellor Viv was present) and NSA secretary Krishan Minocha.

Learning Points:

Some preliminary learnings include the usefulness of launching this cycle concurrently with the host cluster expansion phase, and thereby cycling alongside the cluster. The unique approach for this project also means that the family unit reflection meetings can be shorter and more focused than the cluster reflection meetings, as the friends can draw on the cluster for general skills and workshops but use the family reflection meeting for specific issues and learnings.

Future Plans:

- To encourage increasing number of contacts
- Conduct a workshop on systematization letter
- Provide refresher for Book 2 (active) and Anna's Presentation
- Meet with Hatem Al Hadi, who will hopefully be an addition to London unit
- Start second unit in the Thames Valley Cluster. We feel the resources are present and that we can start a cycle immediately in this cluster. This cycle will be abridged slightly to 2.5 months so that they can cycle with the cluster. These friends have a different dynamic to the London unit and thus we think would be a valuable asset for learning. Firstly, they are families, whereas London is comprised primarily of youth except for Homa Saadat. These friends have already been making efforts to interact with the target group and all live in areas where increased contacts can be easily made.

-As we are resident in the UK we hope to provide assistance to the other friends scattered throughout the UK with their personal plans, as long as it does not detract from the focus required for London (and

Thames Valley). Moreover, we intend to draw on some of these friends themselves as resources.

We look forward to the joys, triumphs and challenges that this spiritual enterprise will bring. Your prayers are much cherished.

With Gratitude,
In His Service,

Osama Naimi